

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cooperative computer system interconnects the plurality of computers through a network. Each computer is able to execute a foreign computer program received from another computer on the network whenever the local computer has capacity to execute the received program based upon local computer operating requirements. The local computer returns to the foreign computer required information regarding execution of the foreign computer program. The execution of the foreign computer program at the local computer is enabled only when the effect on a local user is minimal. Once the foreign program is operating, it can be interrupted if the effect of its execution as perceived by the local user becomes other than minimal, and sufficient data and context information for continuing execution of an interrupted foreign program can be returned to the foreign computer for transmittal and completion of the interrupted program on a computer other than the local computer.